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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Franklin McMahon, who passed away on March 3, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Franklin McMahon was born on the west side of Chicago in 1921; he grew up in Oak Park and Los Angeles before returning to Chicago, where he attended high school; in 1939, he graduated from Fenwick High School, where his professional artistic career started when one of his drawings for his high school publication was published in Collier's Magazine; he is also a member of the Fenwick High School Hall of Fame; and

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WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Franklin McMahon enlisted in the United States Army Air Force, where he served as a B-17 navigator conducting missions over Germany during World War II; during the war, his plane was shot down and he spent months as a German prisoner of war; during his time in the POW camp, he made drawings of his Nazi captors, which were later published; after the war, he returned to Chicago, where he married his high school sweetheart, the late travel reporter Irene Leahy McMahon; and

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WHEREAS, Franklin McMahon was an internationally-recognized artist reporter; he made drawings

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1 and paintings for numerous publications, including the Chicago
2 Tribune, the Chicago Daily News, the Chicago Sun Times, Chicago
3 Magazine, the New York Times, Life and Look Magazines, and
4 Sports Illustrated; and

5 WHEREAS, Franklin McMahon's artistic works captured the
6 major historical events of the post-World War II era; he
7 created works for such iconic events as the trial of Emmett
8 Till, the political campaigns and conventions from 1960 through
9 2004, the Vatican II Council, the 1965 March on Selma, the
10 Conspiracy Trial of The Chicago 8, the first walk on the moon,
11 as drawn from Mission Control, and the Watergate hearings; he
12 created all of his drawings "on scene" because he believed that
13 an artist reporter could "see around the corners" to capture
14 the essence of the emotion of the subjects of his work; his
15 work is in a variety of public collections, including the
16 Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, and the
17 Chicago History Museum; and

18 WHEREAS, Franklin McMahon was the recipient of numerous
19 awards and accolades, including the Renaissance Prize of the
20 Art Institute of Chicago; in 1963, he was named "Artist of the
21 Year" by the New York Artists Guild; in 2000, he received the
22 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Civil Rights from the
23 Minority Economic Resources Board; he was the recipient of
24 three Emmy Awards and one Peabody award for films incorporating

1 his artwork that were broadcast on WTTW and a number of other
2 Chicago television stations; he received honorary degrees from
3 Loyola University of Chicago and Lake Forest College; he was
4 also a member of the Guiding Faculty of the Famous Artists
5 School in Wilton, Connecticut; and

6 WHEREAS, Franklin McMahon was preceded in death by his
7 wife; and

8 WHEREAS, Franklin McMahon is survived by his children, Wm.
9 Franklin McMahon, Mark McMahon, Mary I McMahon Taplin, Deborah
10 McMahon Osterholtz, Patrick McMahon, Hugh McMahon, Margot
11 McMahon, Michelle McMahon-Kubota, and Michael McMahon; his 13
12 grandchildren; and his 5 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
15 his family and friends, the passing of Franklin McMahon; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Franklin McMahon as an expression of
19 our sympathy.